

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the title on page 1 at lines 3-4 with the following rewritten title:

~~--AN AL COATED FUEL TANK MADE FROM ALUMINUM COATED STEEL SHEET
FOR USE AS A FUEL TANK AND A METHOD OF MANUFACTURING A FUEL TANK
THEREFROM--~~

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3, line 27, with the following rewritten paragraph:

C¹
--Lubricity of a resin film may be improved by dispersion of a powdery synthetic resin such as polyolefin or fluororesin to an organic resin film instead of an a lubricate film. However, such the additive deteriorates adhesiveness and durability of a- an anti-corrosion paint film applied to the external surface of the fuel tank and causes exfoliation of the paint film during ~~using~~ use--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 4, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

C²
--The present invention is ~~accomplished for elimination of~~ eliminates the above-mentioned problems. The object of the present invention is to offer an Al-coated steel sheet, and preferably a fuel tank made from an Al-coated steel sheet, which satisfies ~~requisitions~~ the requirements for use as a fuel tank having superior ~~of~~ corrosion resistance and durability.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 5, line 12, with the following rewritten paragraph:

C³
--A resin film, which is excellent in lubricity, corrosion resistance and plasticity and which also maintains excellent corrosion resistance as well as adhesiveness to an anti-corrosion film even after press-working a steel sheet to a shape of a fuel tank, has been used so far as a resin film formed on an Al-coated steel sheet for use as a fuel tank. On the contrary, the inventors researched ~~for~~ to develop a resin film which serves as a protective film until press-working and is then easily removed from the steel substrate, ~~without affection of such the conventional idea on the resin film~~. When such the resin film is realized, the resin

C³ film is completely removed from the steel sheet before seam-welding. Consequently, upper and lower halves are joined together in the absence of the resin film during seam-welding, so as to avoid ~~generation of~~ generating offensive odor or smoke as decomposition products of the resin film. Even when a powdery synthetic resin which puts harmful effects on adhesiveness to an anti-corrosion film is added to the resin film serving as a protective film, durability of the fuel tank does not ~~become worse~~ worsen, since the powdery synthetic resin is removed together with the resin film. However, it is very difficult to peel off a conventional resin film after the press-working, since it firmly sticks to an Al-coated steel sheet due to drawing motion during the press-working.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 10, with the following rewritten paragraph:

C⁴ --Solubility of a resin film is ~~varies greatly varied in response to a~~ depending upon the pH value of ~~an~~ the alkali liquid used for washing, as shown in Fig. 1. A time for dissolution of the resin film is changed in correspondence with the pH value. It is necessary to adjust the solubility of the resin film so that dissolution is finished within 5 minutes in an alkali liquid of pH 9.0 or higher, ~~accounting~~ taking into account a washing time predetermined within 5 minutes in an alkali cleaning step of a conventional process for manufacturing members of a fuel tank. Dissolution of a resin film in an alkali liquid is promoted by introduction of a free carboxyl group(s) in a molecule of the resin so as to weaken water resistance. The resin, in which a free carboxyl group(s) is introduced, has solubility varied with an acid value. The acid value is represented by a mg number of potassium hydroxide necessary for neutralization of acid contents (acid groups) in 1g a resin. If the acid value is less than 40, it takes 5 minutes or longer to completely dissolve ~~off~~ the resin film in an alkali liquid of pH 9.0 or higher. However, ~~the~~ acid value greater than 90 causes poor film-forming ability of the resin and deteriorates the anti-scratching property of the resin film. ~~In this~~ As a consequence, the carboxyl group(s) is preferably introduced to the resin in ~~the~~ a manner such that the acid value is adjusted in a range of 40-90.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 28, with the following rewritten paragraph:

CS --~~In recent days~~ More recently, a cleaning solution is prepared at [a lower and] an increasingly lower pH value to keep the alkali cleaning work safe, and a cleaning time is shortened to improve productivity. In short, there has been set the work goal that the cleaning is completed within 1 minute using an alkali liquid of pH 9.0 or so. According to the work goal, the resin film shall be also dissolved off within 1 minute by the alkali liquid of pH 9.0. However, 3-5 minutes are ordinarily required for dissolution of a resin film, in which a free carboxyl group(s) is merely introduced so as to adjust an acid value to 40-90, in an alkali liquid of pH 9.0. Due to such a longer time for dissolution, a cleaning liquid of a higher pH value is inevitably used for shortening the cleaning time without change of a resin kind. In ~~actual~~ actuality, a cleaning liquid of pH 10 has been used for completion of the cleaning within 1.5-2.0 minutes, or a cleaning liquid of pH 11 or higher has been used for completion of the cleaning within 1 minute.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

CE --The inventors have searched for a method which enables short-time cleaning using an alkali liquid of a lower pH value. In the course of searching and examination, the inventors found that partial substitution of hydrogen atoms in a free carboxyl group(s) introduced to a molecule of a film-forming resin by alkali metal is effective for dissolution of a resin film within 1 minute by an alkali liquid of pH 9.0. The substitution ratio of hydrogen atoms by the alkali metal is preferably adjusted to 1-50% on the basis of all the free carboxyl groups. If the substitution ratio is less than 1%, a time for dissolution of a resin film is not so shortened compared with a resin film having segregation hydroxyl groups unsubstituted by alkali metal, and the resin film is not completely dissolved off within 1 minute by an alkali liquid of pH 9.0. If the substitution ratio exceeds 50%, on the contrary, a resulting resin film is excessively hygroscopic so that the resin film is likely to be blocked when an Al-coated steel sheet to which the resin film is applied is stored in a coiled state.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 7, line 28, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q7
--A resin having hydrogen atoms of a free carboxyl group(s) partially substituted by alkali metal is prepared from a resin to which a free carboxyl group(s) is introduced to adjust its acid value at 40-90. If the acid value is less than 40, dissolution of the resin film in an alkali liquid of pH 9.0 is not completed within 1 minute, regardless of substitution of hydrogen atoms by alkali metal. If the acid value exceeds 90, on the contrary, the anti-scratching property of the resin film is poor ~~of anti-scratching property~~--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 16, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q8
--There are ~~not~~ no special restrictions on synthesis of a urethane or acrylic resin. Any conventional process may be adopted, unless so long as the effects of the present invention are not hurt. However, even though a resin form is ~~neither~~ not restricted, a desirable resin is soluble in an organic solvent or water or dispersible in water. The water-soluble or water-dispersible resin is especially desirable in the viewpoint of coating operation. A film-forming auxiliary such as an alkylene glycol derivative, dialkyl ester of an aliphatic dicarboxylic acid or N-methyl-2-pyrrolidone may be added to the resin.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 28, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q9
Sub E1
--A powdery synthetic resin incompatible with the alkali-soluble resin may be added to the resin composition for formation of the resin film, in ~~the~~ such a manner ~~such that~~ the powdery synthetic resin improves workability of the Al-coated steel sheet, so that the Al-coated steel sheet can be press-worked without application of a lubricant oil even to a part which is subjected to severe reformation. The effect of the powdery synthetic resin on workability is realized by addition at a ratio of 1 mass % or more on the basis of the resin composition. However, excessive addition of the powdery synthetic resin more than 25 mass % ~~un~~stabilizes ~~destabilizes~~ suspension of the powdery synthetic resin in a treating liquid, and causes gelation of the powdery synthetic resin. In this consequence, a ratio of the powdery

Q9 synthetic resin added to the resin composition is determined within a range of 1-25 mass % (preferably 3-20 mass %).--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q10 --Any of a fluoro-resin, a polyolefinic resin such as polyethylene or polypropylene, a styrenic resin such as ABS or polystyrene, and a halogenized resin such as vinyl chloride or polyvinylidene chloride may be used as such the powdery synthetic resin. One or more of these powdery synthetic resins may be added to the resin composition. The powdery synthetic resin may be provided by mechanical crushing to a proper particle size or offered as a liquid suspension prepared by chemically or mechanically dispersing the synthetic resin in a proper solvent.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 10, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q11 --Although there are not any special restrictions on formation of a resin film, an emulsion is prepared from a liquid resin having a carboxyl group(s) in its molecule to which a powdery synthetic resin and/or powdery silica is optionally added. Such an emulsion is applied to a steel sheet by a proper method selected from brushing, application with rolls or bars, showering, spraying and electrostatic atomization ~~accounting~~ resulting in economical efficiency and productivity, to form a uniform resin film on the Al-coated steel sheet. The applied resin is dried at an ambient temperature or a high temperature.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 14, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Q12 --Samples were cut off the Al-coated steel sheets painted with the resin films and ~~offered~~ subjected to the following tests.--

Please delete the heading appearing at page 28, line 22:
INDUSTRIAL APPLICABILITY

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 28, line 23, with the following rewritten paragraph:

C 13 --An Al-coated steel sheet for a fuel tank according to the present invention as above-mentioned has a resin film formed on its surface for inhibition of scratches during press-working for shaping it to members of a fuel tank. Due to such the resin film, the fuel tank is improved in corrosion resistance to stored fuel without exposition of base steel. Since the resin film is composed of an alkali-soluble resin, it is easily washed off by an alkali liquid after the Al-coated steel sheet [was] has been shaped to members of the fuel tank. As a result, the Al-coated steel sheet can be welded without generation of smoke or offensive odor caused by thermal decomposition of the resin film with a weld heat.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 29, line 14, with the following rewritten paragraph:

C 14 --The resin film, which ~~serve~~ serves as a protective layer for the Al-coated steel sheet until press-working, is easily removed from the Al-coated steel sheet by alkali-washing before resistance-welding. Therefore, a powdery synthetic resin or silica may be dispersed in the resin film for improvement of anti-scratching property without harmful influences on a- an anti-corrosion paint layer to be formed on a surface of a fuel tank. In addition, alkali-washing is performed between a press-working step and a welding step in a fuel tank manufacturing line, so that a fuel tank is manufactured by the same line as a conventional one without increase of a- cost due to an additional step.--
